

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for producing retinoic acid nanoparticles comprising micelles of retinoic acid coated with ~~an inorganic salt of polyvalent metal~~ calcium carbonate, the method comprising:

- dispersing retinoic acid dissolved in a lower alcohol in an aqueous alkali solution;
- adding a nonionic surfactant to the dispersion to form a mixed micelle;
- adding to the mixed micelle a calcium halide or calcium acetate ~~of divalent metal~~ along with a carbonate ~~or phosphate~~ of alkali metal so that a molar ratio of the former to the latter is 1:0.01 to 1:1.0, thereby depositing a coating of the ~~inorganic salt of the polyvalent metal~~ calcium carbonate on a surface of the mixed micelle; and
- adjusting an average particle size of the resulting nanoparticles to 5 to 106.4 nm.

Claims 2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The method for producing retinoic acid nanoparticles coated with ~~an inorganic salt of polyvalent metal~~ calcium carbonate according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein the calcium halide ~~or the zinc halide~~ is selected from the group consisting of calcium chloride, calcium bromide, calcium fluoride[[,]] and calcium iodide, ~~zinc chloride, zinc bromide, zinc fluoride and zinc iodide.~~

5. (Currently amended) The method for producing retinoic acid nanoparticles coated with ~~an inorganic salt of polyvalent metal~~ calcium carbonate according to claim 1, wherein the carbonate ~~or phosphate~~ of alkali metal is selected ~~from the group~~

~~consisting of~~ sodium carbonate[[,]] or potassium carbonate, ~~sodium phosphate, and potassium phosphate.~~

6. (Currently amended) The method for producing retinoic acid nanoparticles coated with an ~~inorganic salt of polyvalent metal~~ calcium carbonate according to claim 1, wherein the lower alcohol is methanol or ethanol.

7. (Currently amended) The method for producing retinoic acid nanoparticles coated with an ~~inorganic salt of polyvalent metal~~ calcium carbonate according to claim 1, wherein the nonionic surfactant is polyoxyethylene (20), sorbitan monooleate, polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monolaurate, polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monostearate, polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monopalmitate, polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan trioleate, polyoxyethylene (8) octylphenylether, polyoxyethylene (20) cholesterol ester, polyoxyethylene (30) cholesterol ester or polyoxyethylene hydrogenated castor oil.

Claims 8-10 (cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) Retinoic acid nanoparticles coated with an ~~inorganic salt of polyvalent metal~~ calcium carbonate and having an average particle size of 5 to 106.4 nm, obtained by the ~~producing~~ method of producing retinoic acid nanoparticles according to any of claims 1, 4 to 7.

12 (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) Calcium carbonate-coated nanoparticles having an average particles size of 5 to 106.4 nm and comprising ~~retinoic acid~~ mixed micelles of retinoic acid and nonionic surfactant coated with calcium carbonate.

14. (Withdrawn) Zinc carbonate-coated nanoparticles having an average particles size of 5 to 300 nm and comprising retinoic acid micelles coated with zinc carbonate.

15. (Withdrawn) Calcium phosphate-coated nanoparticles having an average particles size of 5 to 300 nm and comprising retinoic acid micelles coated with calcium phosphate.